

S. RES. 156

Whereas, the United States Senate, Emily J. Reynolds, Secretary of the Senate, and William H. Pickle, Senate Sergeant at Arms, have been named as defendants in the case of *Judicial Watch, Inc. v. United States Senate, et al.*, No. 1:03CV01066, now pending in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia;

Whereas, pursuant to sections 703(a) and 704(a)(1) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, 2 U.S.C. §§288b(a) and 288c(a)(1), the Senate may direct its counsel to defend the Senate and officers of the Senate in civil actions relating to their official responsibilities: Now, therefore be it

Resolved, That the Senate Legal Counsel is authorized to represent the United States Senate, Emily J. Reynolds, Secretary of the Senate, and William H. Pickle, Senate Sergeant at Arms, in the case of *Judicial Watch, Inc. v. United States Senate, et al.*,

SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES TO PROVIDE DECENT HOMES TO PEOPLE IN THE UNITED STATES

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Banking Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Con. Res. 43, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 43) expressing the sense of the Congress that Congress should participate in and support activities to provide decent homes for the people of the United States.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 43) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. CON. RES. 43

Whereas the United States promotes and encourages the creation and revitalization of sustainable and strong neighborhoods in partnership with States, cities, and local communities;

Whereas the United States promotes and encourages the creation and revitalization of sustainable and strong neighborhoods in partnership with States, cities, and local communities and in conjunction with the independent and collective actions of private citizens and organizations;

Whereas establishing a housing infrastructure strengthens neighborhoods and local economies and nurtures the families who reside in them;

Whereas an integral element of a strong community is a sufficient supply of affordable housing;

Whereas affordable housing may be provided in traditional and nontraditional forms, including apartment buildings, transitional and temporary homes, condominiums, cooperatives, and single family homes;

Whereas for many families a home is not merely shelter, but also provides an opportunity for growth, prosperity, and security;

Whereas homeownership is a cornerstone of the national economy because it spurs the production and sale of goods and services, generates new jobs, encourages savings and investment, promotes economic and civic responsibility, and enhances the financial security of all people in the United States;

Whereas although the United States is the first nation in the world to make owning a home a reality for a vast majority of its families, 1/3 of the families in the United States are not homeowners;

Whereas a disproportionate percentage of families in the United States that are not homeowners are low-income families;

Whereas 74.2 percent of Caucasian Americans own their own homes, only 47.1 percent of African Americans, 47.2 percent of Hispanic Americans, and 55.8 percent of Asian Americans and other races are homeowners;

Whereas the community building activities of neighborhood-based nonprofit organizations empower individuals to improve their lives and make communities safer and healthier for families;

Whereas one of the best known nonprofit housing organizations is Habitat for Humanity, which builds simple but adequate housing for less fortunate families and symbolizes the self-help approach to homeownership;

Whereas Habitat for Humanity is organized in all 50 States with 1,655 local affiliates and its own section 501(c)(3) Federal tax-exempt status and locally elected completely voluntary board of directors;

Whereas Habitat for Humanity has built nearly 150,000 houses worldwide and endeavors to complete another 50,000 homes by the year 2005;

Whereas Habitat for Humanity provides opportunities for people from every segment of society to volunteer to help make the American dream a reality for families who otherwise would not own a home; and

Whereas the month of June has been designated as "National Homeownership Month": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that—

(1) everyone in the United States should have a decent home in which to live;

(2) Members of the Senate and the House of Representatives should demonstrate the importance of volunteerism;

(3) during the years of the 108th and 109th sessions of Congress, Members of the Senate and the House of Representatives, Habitat for Humanity, and contributing organizations, should sponsor and construct 2 homes in the Washington, D.C., metro area each as part of the "Congress Building America" program;

(4) each Congress Building America house should be constructed primarily by Members of the Senate and the House of Representatives, their families and staffs, and the staffs of sponsoring organizations working with local volunteers involving and symbolizing the partnership of the public, private, and nonprofit sectors of society;

(5) each Congress Building America house should be constructed with the participation of the family that will own the home;

(6) in the future, Members of the Senate and the House of Representatives, their families, and their staff should participate in similar house building activities in their own States as part of National Homeownership Month; and

(7) these occasions should be used to emphasize and focus on the importance of providing decent homes for all of the people in the United States.

ENDING UNWARRANTED EUROPEAN UNION MORATORIUM AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY PRODUCTS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 154, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 154) expressing the support of the Senate of the United States efforts in the World Trade Organization to end the unwarranted moratorium imposed by the European Union on the approval of agricultural biotechnology products.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the matter be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 154) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 154

Expressing the support of the Senate of United States efforts in the World Trade Organization to end the unwarranted moratorium imposed by the European Union on the approval of agricultural biotechnology products.

Whereas agricultural biotechnology is subject to the strictest Federal review in the United States, based on sound science, by the Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Food and Drug Administration prior to planting and human consumption;

Whereas agricultural biotechnology has made considerable contributions to the protection of the environment by creating an environment more hospitable to wildlife and reducing the application of pesticides by 46,000,000 pounds in 2001 alone;

Whereas agricultural biotechnology holds tremendous promise for greatly increasing the world's supply of nutritious and wholesome foods which will improve the quality of life and health in the developing world;

Whereas there is objective and experience-based consensus in the international scientific community, including the National Academy of Sciences, the American Medical Association, the Royal Society of London, the French Academy of Medicine, the French Academy of Sciences, the Brazilian Academy of Sciences, the Chinese Academy of Sciences, the Indian National Science Academy, and the Mexican Academy of Science, that agricultural biotechnology is safe;

Whereas policy decisions regarding agricultural biotechnology in the European Union are being driven by politics and not by sound science;

Whereas since the late 1990s, the European Union has pursued policies that shelter its markets from competition by opposing the use of agricultural biotechnology;

Whereas agricultural biotechnology policies of the European Union have frustrated the development of modern scientific tools and plant technology that could expand the production of indigenous food products by